

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8-10 and 15-17, and amend claims 2 and 14, as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A lacquer composition comprising:

- (1) from 20 to 80 wt. % of a polymer composition comprising polyesters, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, mixtures or copolymers thereof;
- (2) from 0.5 to 25 wt. % of a silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica having attached to the surface thereof hexadecylsilyl groups, ~~one or more of the following: (a) alkylsilyl groups according to the molecular formula  $\text{SiC}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}$ , wherein n is an integer from 2 to 18; (b) dimethylsilyl groups; and (c) monomethylsilyl groups~~, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has a tamped density of 123-322 g/L;
- (3) from 0 to 80 wt. % of one or more solvents; and
- (4) from 0 to 10 wt. % of an additive.

Claims 3-5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said polymer composition comprises polymers having pendant functionalized hydroxyl groups capable of crosslinking.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The lacquer composition according to claim 6, wherein said polymer composition comprises two or more crosslinked copolymers.

Claims 8-10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said solvent is present and is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, esters, ketones, amides, borates, silanes, water, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said solvent is present and is selected from the group consisting of aromatic hydrocarbons, aliphatic hydrocarbons, araliphatic hydrocarbons, cycloaliphatic hydrocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons, methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, butanol, benzyl alcohol, diacetone alcohol, ethyl acetate, propyl acetate, butyl acetate, methoxypropyl acetate, butyl glycol acetate, phosphoric acid dibutyl ester, phosphoric acid tributyl ester, sulfonic acid esters, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, N-methylpyrrolidone, tetraethoxysilane, methyl-trimethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyl-trimethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyl-triethoxysilane, glycidyloxypropyl-trimethoxysilane, glycidyloxypropyl-triethoxysilane, borates, water, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said additive is present and includes additives selected from the group consisting of rheologic agents, stabilization agents, dispersability agents, deagglomeration agents, flowability agents, fillers, and pigments.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica having attached to the surface thereof hexadecylsilyl groups, ~~one or more of the following:~~ (a) ~~alkylsilyl groups according to the molecular formula  $\text{SiC}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}$ , wherein n is an integer from 2 to 18;~~ (b) ~~dimethylsilyl groups;~~ and (c) ~~monomethylsilyl groups;~~ wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has a tamped density of 123-322 g/L.

Claims 15-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said polymer composition is present in an amount of from 35 to 70 wt. %.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica is present in an amount of from 1 to 25 wt. %.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica is present in an amount of from 2 to 10 wt. %.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has a tamped density of 146-322 g/L.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn) The silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica according to claim 14, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has a tamped density of 146-322 g/L.